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Welcome

Dear Friends of Westminster Cathedral

My last letter to the readers of the Friends of Westminster Cathedral newsletter was written just after Easter and since then many of us have enjoyed time away on holiday or on pilgrimage or visiting family and friends. For some reason I seem to have acquired the reputation as a traveller and this summer's activity would support that opinion.

In July I was privileged to lead a pilgrimage to Ethiopia where we visited many of the very ancient Ethiopian orthodox churches, some of which were hewn out of solid rock and others built in caves. As well as visiting these ancient places of prayer we also saw several instances of the Catholic church's involvement in education and social work all of which was very inspiring.

Later in the year I travelled to Malmö in Sweden to spend a few days at a rural retreat with some old friends and then went on to Bulgaria to stay with a godson and his wife and family. On my return I visited some of my family in Yorkshire and an old friend in Derbyshire where I was able to assist the parish church. Pax Travel and I have worked very happily together for many years and I hope that that will continue.

My last outing this year is to take a group, again with Pax, to the Shrine of St Nicholas at Bari in Puglia. St Nicholas, as you will know, later became Santa Claus and so this will be in some way a spiritual preparation for the beautiful season of Christmas for which we shall soon be preparing. Sadly, the founder of Pax Travel, Philip Dean, a great supporter of the Cathedral died recently.

I wish you every blessing for the months ahead as we prepare for the great season of Advent. Please continue to keep the Cathedral and its activities in your prayers. Your support means a great deal.

With every blessing,

Canon Christopher Tuckwell

Cathedral Administrator and Chairman of the Friends of Westminster Cathedral



GIFT AID (UK)

If you're a UK taxpayer, you can add an extra 25p to every £1 you give - at no cost to yourself - with Gift Aid. Friends Gift Aid forms are available from The Friends Office
Telephone: **0207 798 9059** Email: friends@rcdow.org.uk Charity number: 272899

The Council: Canon Christopher Tuckwell, Chairman; Andrew Sanders, Vice-Chairman; Andrew Hollingsworth, Treasurer; Linda McHugh, Chair of the Cathedral Hall Appeal; assisted by Oliver Davey, Elizabeth Gibson, Geraldine Kay; Nicholas Morrell and Euphrasie Mundeke-Kilolo. The Council is aided by Barry Lock, Chairman of the Mosaics Appeal group and Christina White, Director.

...Looking back



Our spring/summer season began in April with a trip to the beautiful Christ Church College in Oxford where the Friends were treated to an in-depth tour with some brilliantly knowledgeable guides. The morning concluded with Mass in the Cathedral celebrated by Canon Christopher. In the afternoon we set off for the outer edges of Oxford to Headington and The Kilns, the home of CS Lewis where he wrote his celebrated Narnia series. As the party was so large, we were split into two groups and some of us chose to spend the early part of the afternoon walking in the Wilderness – a wooded open area behind the house. Lewis was an enthusiastic swimmer and would take a dip in the lake every morning.

There was a wonderful sense of Narnia here and the land 'beyond' the wardrobe. It is now a nature reserve, frequented by dog



walkers and locals who enjoy the rambling nature of the space. Lewis and his brother - scythe in hand - carved out many of the paths that still exist and you really get a sense of the author and what inspired his writing.

The house too held echoes of the writer – a wonderful 1930s space with desks and battered armchairs. The house is today given



over to visiting scholars; a fact that would have delighted Lewis. The day we visited a bath had been run and the kettle was boiling for tea. It made the house alive – not a dead and dusty museum piece.

In May a small group met at the Queen's House in Greenwich for a tour of the restored palladium building which has been brought back to life with wonderful attention to detail. Paul Pickering was our guide for the day and he explained the history of the house and its location - then

at the heart of a busy thoroughfare. It was a palace in the centre of court life in Greenwich rather than, as now, in a quiet parkland setting.

We joined the congregation at Our Lady Star of the Sea for Mass and then, after lunch, reconvened at The Fan Museum, a wonderfully eclectic gem of a museum a stone's throw from the Cutty Sark and bustling central Greenwich. This was such an eye-opener. At ground level, a permanent exhibition explains the making of fans and





the intrigue of the fan in social discourse. At first floor; visiting exhibitions are on display. On the day we visited the exhibition was given over to fans made from feathers – I confess I was saddened to see a fan that had once belonged to Mrs Alice Keppel, ancestor of the present Duchess of Cornwall. It was made entirely from the brilliant blue feathers of the jay bird - the handle encrusted with precious jewels. It was a thing of beauty but I would far rather see the bird on the wing.

We concluded our day with afternoon tea in the Orangery and purchased some lovely fan-related items in the museum shop.

Later in the month we met at Southwark Cathedral for Evensong and a private tour given by the Dean, The Very Revd Andrew Nunn. He gave the Friends a fascinating tour that brought together old and new, encompassing the historic building and its place at the heart of the modern city. We were blessed with a lovely evening and it was

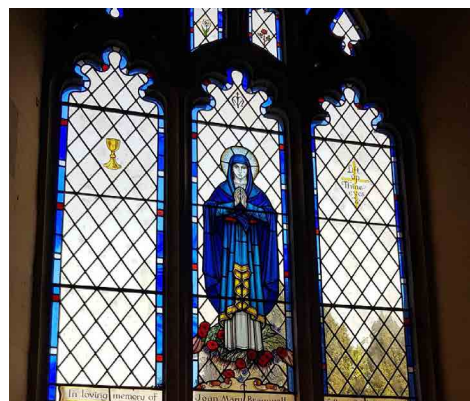


pleasant to walk the gardens that surround the Cathedral – a welcome burst of colour and freshness against the lively backdrop of Borough Market. We ended the visit with a quick trip to the Crossbones Graveyard project that pays tribute to the women of the streets – the so called Southwark Geese – who were buried here away from hallowed ground. We are grateful indeed to Joseph Bonner, a former Trustee of the Friends, who organised the trip. The Friends gathered for a quiet drink in a local hostelry before

heading home. If you are not familiar with the Cathedral and its environs do visit – it is a very special place.

The month of May concluded with a trip to Chartwell – the country home of Winston Churchill. En route we visited the ancient church of St Mary's, Westerham and the rather less ancient church of St John the Baptist where parish priest Fr Ivan Aquilina and his parishioners kindly gave us coffee and cake.





On a glorious day Chartwell was an absolute vision, nestled in the heart of the Weald. It was difficult to contemplate the black dog depression which overcame Churchill in such a beautiful place. The studio – where he painted prolifically and also chose to meet world leaders for some of the most sensitive discussions of the war – was a fascinating adjunct to the main house. There are of course displays of militaria and the usual awards of state but we were all struck by the evident domesticity of Chartwell. It felt lived in and comfortable – maybe a reflection on the sorry state of the Churchill finances. A velvet boiler suit had pride of place in the museum.



on-going support and arrangement of this event. Canon Christopher was again the quizmaster for an enjoyable evening.

At the end of the month we were delighted to welcome Lady Antonia Fraser to the Cathedral Hall for an 'in conversation' evening chaired by Professor Andrew Sanders, vice-chairman of the Friends. Lady Antonia came to the Cathedral to talk about her latest book: *The King and the Catholics*. She was an engaging speaker – full of interest and anecdotes and the Friends queued in large numbers to have books signed.

It was a very successful evening but highlighted all the reasons why the Hall has

We returned to Westerham, on the journey back to London, for a lightning visit to Colonel Wolfe's house. This British army officer and hero of Quebec, whose victory over the French in 1759 secured his place in history, is commemorated at his childhood home. Most of us hadn't heard of him in truth – but it was nice to think he is not forgotten and the story of his bravery persists.

The summer party was sadly cancelled because of a lack of interest. Allen Hall has been a lovely venue over the years for a summer soiree but it was not to be. Many Friends had already socialised at the AGM and maybe the party felt superfluous? We do struggle to find a venue with an outside space that is affordable for an outdoor party. If you have ideas do let us know.

The Friends did not stay away from the June quiz fish and chip supper and Mary Maxwell is to be thanked for her



been chosen as the anniversary project for the Friends. The sound system was unreliable and we observed that the space is difficult to access if you have trouble walking – there may be only a short flight of stairs but they are steep. Our thanks go to Linda McHugh, for choreographing the post-talk discussions with a portable microphone.

On to July and really the last event of the summer with a welcome return visit by Alison Weir who came to talk about her book: *Jane Seymour – The Haunted Queen*, the third in her series on the wives of Henry VIII. Alison is such a popular speaker and she brought with her a memory stick loaded with images that brought the queen and her court to life. It was an informative evening and what a life. Jane lived with the knowledge that her predecessor had died by the axe at the whim of a capricious king and her tragedy was that she too did not survive – dying shortly after the death of

her beloved son Prince Edward. Alison has shed new light on the queen's death and disagrees with the commonly held view that Jane died as a result of puerperal fever, a common post-partum infection which was still taking lives in this country into the 20th century. Alison's theory is that Jane died of an embolism – possibly triggered by a period of food poisoning which she suffered after the birth of the prince. Her theory certainly fits with the descriptions of Jane's last hours. Alison has just finished the fourth book in the series on Anne of Cleves and we will look forward to welcoming her back to the Cathedral in 2019.

If you were unable to attend either of the summer talks we have a couple of signed copies of both books available for purchase. Our thanks must go to all the members of Council and the many volunteers who assisted at events over the summer. Thank you for helping.



Looking forward...

Our autumn season kicked off with the Friends' visit to The Speaker's House on 23 October. We are most grateful to Elizabeth Gibson for her help in arranging the evening and our thanks to Simon Perry and his team at Hyperion for their help with a little gift for all those who have supported the evening. At the time of writing, over 70 Friends had signed up for the event. It promises to be a lovely event.



We do ask Friends for feedback and ideas for events and I am delighted to say that the Friends' trip to the museum of the Order of St John on 30 October was inspired by James Drabble who is a regular volunteer at the museum and recommended that we visit. We have arranged a private tour of the museum but are advising the Friends to turn up a little earlier so that they can view the free, general collection which focuses on the work of the St John Ambulance. We have tea and cake arranged after the visit.

Paul Pickering took a group of Friends on a tour of the Houses of Parliament earlier in October and he suggested a Grand Tour for the Friends in November. This will be very much in the style of the



intrepid tourists of the 18th and 19th century who set off to Italy for cultural inspiration. Paul will lead our group on a Grand Tour of the National Gallery focusing on the works that would have been culturally interesting to our forebears and explaining their influence back home in Britain. We will of course convene for the traditional tea and scone at the conclusion of the tour. Paul has been rather the unsung hero for the Friends with his myriad tours over the years and I would like to share some feedback received this month from a lady who joined the Parliament trip: 'The Tour was wonderful. I really liked Paul's style. He brought it all to life. And I greatly appreciated his attention to religious & Catholic connections - a great guide. He mentioned that on 9 November the Friends are organising a tour of the National Gallery. I would love to sign up for that.' Book early!



Later in the month we travel to Winchester for a tour of the Cathedral and then Canon Christopher will celebrate Mass by kind permission of the Dean. The rest of the day is given over for you to enjoy the Winchester Christmas Fair at your leisure. This is one of the most well established fairs in the country and I am informed that there will also be an ice rink for those of an intrepid disposition. The coach has been booked to return to London at 4.15pm so it will not be a late return. We are mindful of the nights drawing in and the colder weather – wrap up warm.

Our Big Give Donors' Supper is in the Clergy House Dining Room on 27 November. This marks the date that the appeal goes live – we are again appealing for funds for the Cathedral Hall refurbishment project. We have already received £10,000 in pledges and are looking to match this with online donations. If you want to give £1000 to the appeal and would like to come to the supper do let us know in plenty of time and we can add you to the list. This was a great success last year with a champagne reception in the Common Room followed by supper with the chaplains. Please be generous – there are details of the campaign elsewhere in the newsletter.

The Friends are again running the Cathedral Christmas Fair on Sunday 9 December and we are asking you to be generous with donations and with your time. We need able-bodied workers for the set-up on the Saturday and for stall manning on the Sunday. All manner of donations will be gratefully received but please no used clothing, videos or old books. We will have the Every Bottle Wins Tombola and gifts of wine, olive oil, spirits and nice bubble bath are always appreciated. Someone last year took me at my word and delivered empty bottles to Clergy House – not quite what we had in mind. We do make every effort to secure good prices for the new gifts stall so please donate any unwanted birthday or Christmas presents from last year.



Our newsletter has started late this year and carries on into 2019. By kind invitation of the Dean of Westminster Abbey, the Rt Rev Dr John Hall, we are returning to the Abbey for an evening visit. We will be joining the congregation for Evensong with seats reserved and will then have a tour of the Abbey with the Dean culminating in a visit to the new Queen's Diamond Jubilee Galleries which display some of the Abbey's greatest treasures.

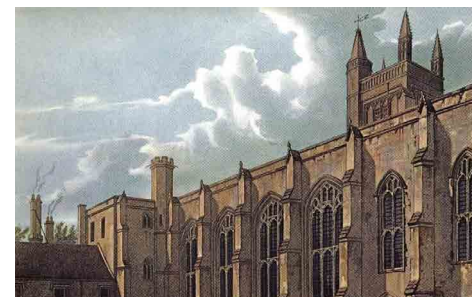
Highlights include the Liber Regalis – a 14th-century guide to Royal funerals and ceremonies which is still used today. A drinks reception will follow in the Jerusalem Chamber. I came in late from work this month and caught a fascinating programme on the Hockney window in the Abbey which was commissioned to celebrate the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I hope this will be included on our tour. We expect the Abbey event to sell out very quickly so please book early. We have been advised that access to the Galleries is usually via a staircase but there is a lift in the Weston Tower for those with mobility issues. There will be a degree of walking and standing on the visit so please do bear this in mind before booking.



Takers for our curry quiz in October were slightly thin on the ground despite a delicious supper cooked by Claudette. Die-hards will be pleased to note that the fish and chips quiz returns on 12 February in the Cathedral Hall.



Looking ahead to the summer we have a return visit to Winchester booked for Tuesday 28 May, the day after the Bank Holiday. We had hoped to include a visit to the historic Winchester College on our Winchester day in November but the timings didn't work. We have decided to combine the trip to the college, where Canon Christopher will celebrate Mass, with an afternoon visit to the Hospital of St Cross and Almshouse of Noble Poverty – an historic site that has welcomed pilgrims for centuries. Founded between 1132 and 1136 it is the oldest charitable institution in England. Mary Remnant suggested a visit to the Hospital of St Cross many, many months ago and I am pleased that we have finally got there. I hope there is something of interest for the winter months – please do book early.



Trustees' statement

The trustees confirm that the above financial summary is taken from the full accounts approved on 11 June 2018. The summary may not contain sufficient information to allow a full understanding of the financial affairs of the Society of Friends of Westminster Cathedral. Copies of the full accounts on which the auditors have reported without qualification and which will be delivered to the Charity Commission may be obtained free of charge from The Friends of Westminster Cathedral, 42, Francis Street, London SW1P 1QW.

Canon Christopher Tuckwell
Chairman

11 May 2018

Auditors' statement

We have reviewed the above financial summary and are of the opinion that it is consistent with the accounts of the Society of Friends of Westminster Cathedral for the year ended 31 December 2017 on which we gave an unqualified audit report.

Richardson Watson and Co.
Chartered Certified Accountants
Crosspoint House
28, Stafford Road
Wallington
Surrey SM6 9AA
25 June 2018

Treasurer's report

Dear Friends,

We have had a successful year marking the 40th anniversary of the Friends. From a financial point of view we supported the new furniture for the Song School with a grant of £105,262 and supported the George Malcolm exhibition with a grant of £5,114. The 40th anniversary dinner raised £5,064, the Friends @ 40 Party after the anniversary Mass raised £632 and the reception at Browns Hotel raised £500.

In overall terms our reserves declined by £161,209 from £479,919 to £318,710.

Our accumulated fund declined by £109,834 mainly representing the grants for the Song School furniture and George Malcolm exhibition made from the accumulated fund brought forward. The closing accumulated fund of £98,540 represents nearly two years of the cost of running the Friends and is a more appropriate level of reserves with the major projects of St George's Chapel and the Tower Refurbishment covered now by restricted and designated funds.

Restricted funds have declined by £40,485 mainly represented £100,701 of costs of St George's Chapel Mosaics covered from funds brought forward partly balanced by an increase of funds of £56,444 to £82,647 in the Cathedral Hall Refurbishment Fund.

We now have two main objectives for the next period of Friends' fundraising. Our main priority is to build up funds for the refurbishment of Westminster Cathedral Hall. Since the year end the fund has grown to almost £200,000 but much more funding is needed. Christina White refers to this elsewhere and to the important matched giving campaign Big Give. Please give serious consideration to donating to the Big Give campaign as every £1 given makes £2.

Our next Mosaics project is to complete the decoration of St Patrick's Chapel with mosaic. This project is at an early stage but contributions to build up an initial fund are welcome, as are skilled volunteers to assist Barry Lock the chairman of the mosaics committee with the appeal.

Finally it is most important that we all encourage new people to join the Friends. Our work can only continue with a vibrant membership. Do encourage your friends and family to join.

Andrew Hollingsworth, Treasurer

The Society of Friends of Westminster Cathedral

Summarised accounts: – Income and expenditure – Year ended 31 December 2017

	2017 £	2016 £
Income		
Subscriptions	17,164	18,066
Net income from events	22,329	16,744
Donations	82,426	52,283
Legacies receivable	10,041	80,029
Interest receivable	704	1,736
Income tax recoverable	4,662	6,574
	137,326	175,432
Expenditure		
Fundraising and publicity	1,728	1,883
Management and administration		54,485
Cost of operating The Friends	55,086	56,368
Net income raised	82,240	119,064
Grants payable		
Grants to Cathedral	243,449	210,739
Net (outgoing) / incoming resources	(161,209)	(91,675)
Fund balances at 1 January 2017	479,919	571,594
Fund balances at 31 December 2017	318,710	£479,919

Balance sheet – As at 31 December 2017

	2017 £	2016 £
Current assets		
Stocks	918	1,172
Debtors	40,652	30,877
Cash at bank and in hand	411,492	463,625
Total current assets	453,062	495,674
Less current liabilities	(134,352)	(15,755)
Net current assets	318,710	479,919
Total net assets	£318,710	£479,919
Restricted funds		
Mosaics General Appeal Fund	32,841	32,793
Mosaics St George's Chapel	56,867	157,568
Mosaics St Patrick's Chapel	3,721	–
Total Mosaics Funds	93,429	190,361
Cathedral Hall Refurbishment	82,647	26,203
Winter Night Shelter	1,001	1,000
Cathedral Fabric Appeal	1,596	1,594
Total restricted funds	178,673	219,158
Unrestricted funds		
Designated fund Tower	41,497	52,387
Accumulated fund	98,540	208,374
Total unrestricted funds	140,037	260,761
Total funds	£318,710	£479,919

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 11 June 2018

Canon Christopher Tuckwell Chairman

Mosaics update

Dear Friends of Cathedral Mosaics

Your coins and notes in the collection box alongside St Patrick's Chapel and your personal donations have continued to increase the seed-corn fund which is so important when the Appeal for the mosaic decoration of the chapel is finally launched. Potential donors tend to be concerned that they are not donating to an appeal which may fail for lack of support and are therefore happier to learn that there is already a substantial sum in the kitty. I am very happy to report that we have recently had a good gust of wind in our financial sails as a result of a very generous legacy for the St Patrick's Chapel Appeal through a loyal Friend of the Cathedral.

In terms of progressing the Appeal, the latest news is that the Cathedral's Art and Architecture Committee is looking at some preliminary designs which are being produced as I write. Please remember that the process is lengthy – when the Cathedral has approved a design it has to then secure the approval of other artistic and architectural statutory bodies. So, dear Friends, please be patient and please continue to make your donations to the seed-corn fund.

Barry DS Lock
Chairman of the Friends' Mosaic Committee

Join the Friends of Westminster Cathedral

Please complete this form and return it to:

The Friends of Westminster Cathedral, Clergy House, 42 Francis Street, London SW1P 1QW

Title: ☐ Mr ☐ Mrs ☐ Miss ☐ Ms

Christian Name _____

Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

☐ £30 ☐ Cheque (enclosed) ☐ Credit/Debit card ☐ Postal Order

Please make cheques payable to The Friends of Westminster Cathedral

Card No:

Valid from Expiry date

Switch issue no. Security code

Card Holder's Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

☐

GIFT AID

Please tick this box if you Gift Aid your donation. The Friends can claim Gift Aid tax relief of 25p on every pound you give. To qualify for Gift Aid, what you pay in UK income tax and/or capital gains tax must at least equal the amount we will claim in the tax year.

I wish all donations that I have made and any future donations I may make, to be treated as Gift Aid donations until I inform you otherwise.

For more membership forms, please contact the Friends Office on +44 (0) 20 7798 9059 or friends@rcdow.org.uk or visit us online at www.westminstercathedral.or.uk/friends.php

The friends
OF WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

Bequest

BEQUEST TO THE FRIENDS OF WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

The donations that we make to Westminster Cathedral and the projects that we undertake benefit greatly from members remembering the charity in their wills. Anyone considering leaving a bequest may find the following notes helpful.



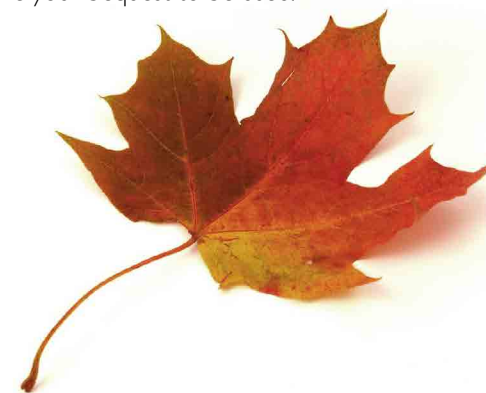
Because the Society of Friends of Westminster Cathedral is a registered charity bequests are exempt from inheritance tax, and can help to reduce the overall inheritance tax liability of your estate. If you would like to remember Westminster Cathedral in your will and wish to continue to support the work of the Friends the following wording may be useful:

I give to the Society of Friends of Westminster Cathedral (Reg. Charity No: 272899), Clergy House, 42 Francis Street, London SW1P 1QW, the sum of £..... Free of tax, on trust, for such charitable purposes. In connection with the Friends of Westminster Cathedral as the Trustees in their absolute discretion think fit, and the receipt of the Treasurer or other officer of the Trust shall be a full discharge to my executors in respect of the same.

If there is a particular project that you wish to support such as mosaic decoration in the Cathedral then you may specify how you would like your bequest to be used.

For further details please do not hesitate to contact the office on **0207 798 9059**, and we will be pleased to help.

Thank you for your generosity.



Appeal for the Cathedral of the Diocese of San Carlos in Venezuela

Dear Friends of Westminster Cathedral



I am writing to ask for your financial support with the urgent work of the restoration of the Cathedral Church of the Diocese of San Carlos in Venezuela.

Last summer I had the opportunity to go home to visit my family and enjoy their company for the summer break. In general terms, they are well thanks be to God; coping with the difficult economic situation that the people are facing there. I stayed there for the whole month of August. During that time, I witnessed firsthand the rapid devaluation of the local currency and the high hyperinflation of any essential products. Besides, there is also shortage of essential medicines and foods.

Indeed, this represents a challenging situation for Monsignor Polito Rodríguez, the bishop of the Diocese of San Carlos, the city where I come from in Venezuela. Monsignor Polito, recently took the hard decision of closing the doors of the Cathedral church, due to the severe damage that the building has suffered, particularly its roof. Currently, during this raining season, the damage has worsened,

and there was a risk that the roof could collapse, in fact a lateral part of the roof has collapsed and one of the beams of the central nave has fallen. The Cathedral church date around 270 years, being the first temple of San Carlos, the capital city of the State Cojedes. It is important to mention that the Church does receive any financial support neither from the local nor the national governments.

Last September 9th of the present year, the Diocese of San Carlos began an appeal for the Restoration of the Temple of the Cathedral. However, as it is known to you, the money that the local people donate to the cause, has little or no impact. For this reason, Bishop Polito has sought the support of some International Institutions.

I attach a letter from Monsignor Polito. I hope that the Friends of the Westminster Cathedral can help and support the work of restoration of the Cathedral of San Carlos in Venezuela. I reassure you of my prayers for you and the members of the Friends of the Cathedral.

Yours faithfully,

Fr Julio Alborno



DIÓCESIS DE SAN CARLOS
Parroquia Catedral "Inmaculada Concepción"
San Carlos - Estado Cojedes
| Venezuela |



SAN CARLOS, AUGUST 2018

TO MY BROTHERS BISHOPS AND PRIESTS

Greetings in the Name of Jesús Christ the Good Shepherd,

I am Monsignor Polito Rodrigo Méndez, by the grace of God, Bishop of the Diocese of San Carlos, Cojedes - Venezuela for two years. Since my arrival to the Diocese I have met with a very hard reality, regarding the formation of the laity which is very weak; to address this, we have created an Institution for the Formation of the Laity. Likewise, we are working on organizing the Pastoral, Evangelization, and the Vocational and Economical aspect, this last is a very difficult one due to the actual economical crisis that the country is going through, as is well known to you.

The reason why I am writing to you in this opportunity, is to ask your support, because on July 29th of the present year, we have to make a very hard decision of closing the door of the Cathedral church, due to the severe damage that the building has suffered, particularly its roof. Currently, during this rainy season, the damage has worsened, and there was the risk that the roof could collapse, in fact, a lateral part of the roof has collapsed and one of the wooden beams of the central nave has fallen. The Cathedral church date around 270 years, being the first temple of San Carlos, the capital city of the State Cojedes.

The petition for support consists on the possibility that you can help us financially with the work of Restoration of the Cathedral Church. We have already asked for help to some International Institutions, among which there is only one, from the Archdiocese of Cologne - Germany, that has manifested the possibility to support us, but there still more resources to bring about the said restoration.

At the front of the works of restoration is Fr Eduardo José Obispo the actual Parish Priest of the Cathedral church who has, together with me, the responsibility to find the resources to funds the projects.

Without any more to refer, we entrust ourselves to your prayers and hope that you can support us financially on this project of the Restoration of the Cathedral Church of the Diocese of San Carlos. I thank you for whatever you can do to support us on this noble cause, God bless.

Yours sincerely,

Polito Rodríguez
Polito Rodríguez Méndez,
Obispo de San Carlos



DIRECCION: Calle 1ra y 2da, San Carlos, Cojedes, Venezuela
TELÉFONO: 0281-2345678
CORREO ELECTRÓNICO: info@diocesissan-carlos.org.ve
PÁGINA WEB: www.diocesissan-carlos.org.ve

The Cathedral Hall

In the run up to the Friends' 40th anniversary the Council looked at various projects which were felt worthy of marking this milestone. We committed to the refurbishment of the Song School paying £100,000 for new furniture and fittings and chose the Cathedral Hall as the main fundraising project for the years ahead.

In recent times, the Friends have focused on largely decorative works: the Cathedral glass doors, the marble plaque to commemorate the visit of Pope Benedict XVI, and the mosaics of St George's Chapel. The Cathedral Hall is dilapidated and in need of urgent repair (the kitchen and lavatories in particular are not fit for purpose) but it has the potential to provide a vital revenue stream for the Cathedral going forward with outside lettings to commercial, business and government organisations.

The Hall fulfils a key role in the parish and wider community – including the overnight shelter project run in conjunction with other churches in the local area – and that will continue. Improving the facilities will help to broaden its appeal and its accessibility to a wide range of users. The clergy, the Friends, individual parishioners, local neighbourhood associations and all the many national and special interest groups that flourish in the Cathedral will benefit. A key aspect of our project is a new entrance and new disabled access. We want the Hall to be a space that is used by everyone in the local community.

The project is seen by The Friends as an investment from which the Cathedral will derive benefit for years to come. No financial contribution is sought from the Cathedral; the project will be financed entirely by The Friends. This will be a significant project and our current estimates are around £1 million.

Over £100,000 seed corn has already been raised and pledged through the Friends' participation in last year's Big Give campaign and from other donations. The Friends' Council has also ratified the decision to fund the project, in part, from existing Friends' reserves.

The Big Give is a scheme whereby if supporters donate through an online donation made on The Big Give Website between 12.00 noon on Tuesday 27 November and 12.00 noon on Tuesday 4 December, their donation is doubled. In fact if you are a UK taxpayer, then Gift Aid can apply so if you give £100 online, the Friends will receive £225 altogether.

We need to ensure that we meet or exceed our target. We have secured £10,000 in pledges and are seeking to match this with online donations. Canon Christopher will again be hosting a celebratory supper on Tuesday 27 November for major donors to the appeal - £1000 or more. Please do tell the office in advance if you are intending to be a £1000 donor and wish to be included in the celebration supper. Donations may only be made online.

There will be more details about our Big Give project in the Cathedral newsletter in the coming weeks. We are also hoping to have a Big Give donation button on the Cathedral website which will take you directly to the online giving page. Help us to help the Cathedral and make this our best fundraising year and please support us in the Big Give. Please follow the link:

<https://secure.thebiggive.org.uk/project/27831>

theBigGive.org.uk
helping your donations go further

Oremus

The Magazine of Westminster Cathedral

A quality publication offering intelligent, informative and interesting articles aimed at Catholics and non-Catholics alike, as well as all those who visit and worship at the mother church of England & Wales.



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For the Diary: Calendar October 2018 – May 2019

30 October: The Museum of the Order of St John Group to meet at 1.45pm for a private tour of the Museum at 2.00pm. Afterwards we will have tea and cake in a local café. Tickets £25



9 November: National Gallery - The Grand Tour 1.45pm

Join Paul Pickering for The Grand Tour; an afternoon in the footsteps of the intrepid 18th century British tourists who set off for Italy in search of artistic inspiration. The tour will start at 2pm and there will be tea and cake to follow. Tickets £20

20 November: Winchester Cathedral and the Winchester Christmas Fair

The coach will depart from Clergy House at 8.15am, arriving in Winchester at 10.30am for a guided tour of the Cathedral followed by Mass to be celebrated by Canon Christopher Tuckwell. In the afternoon there is free time to take in the delights of the Winchester Christmas Fair - one of the finest in the South East. The coach will depart for the return journey to London at 4.15pm. Tickets £39

27 November: The BIG GIVE Donors' Supper 6.45pm

Donors who give more than £1000 to our Big Give appeal in aid of Westminster Cathedral Hall will be invited to a private supper with the chaplains in Clergy House. For details of how to donate, please contact The Friends' Office 0207 798 9059.

9 December: The Westminster Cathedral Christmas Fair Organised by The Friends of Westminster Cathedral. Doors open at 9.30am

10 January 2019: Westminster Abbey with the Dean, the Rt Rev Dr John Hall 4.30pm

Please meet at the front entrance to the Abbey at 4.30pm as we have to be seated by 4.45pm for Evensong at 5pm. We have a tour of the Abbey with the Dean, including a visit to the new Queen's Diamond Jubilee Galleries. A drinks reception in the Jerusalem Chamber will follow. The event will end at 8.30pm. Tickets £50

12 February 2019: Quiz and Fish and Chip Supper 6.45pm

Join Mary Maxwell and her team for the quiz and fish and chip supper in the Cathedral Hall. Doors open at 6.30pm. Pay bar and raffle. Tickets £15

Looking ahead to summer 2019...

28 May 2019: KEEP THE DATE



Winchester College and Hospital of St Cross Coach will depart at 8.15am

Tour and private Mass in the historic Winchester College. Please bring a packed lunch or there are plenty of places to eat in Winchester; in the afternoon we travel on to the beautiful Hospital of St Cross for a tour. Afternoon tea included.

Tickets will be on sale after March 2019.

For detailed information on all the events listed please ring the Friends' Office on: **0207 798 9059.**

Regular updates are also posted on the Cathedral website www.westminstercathedral.org.uk, in the weekly Cathedral parish newsletter and on the Friends' Facebook page.

Design: GADS Ltd

Your Friends' autumn/winter newsletter is rather late this year as we got to grips with the transfer of our database into a new format. Gillian Burke has worked tirelessly to get the system up and running and our thanks go to her for all her hard work. She has previously volunteered at The Passage so may be known to some of you.

In post GDPR mode we are no longer able to send the newsletter to anyone who has not replied to our requests for subscription renewal. If you meet someone who is complaining that they haven't received the newsletter please do ask them to get in touch with the office. We can sort out their membership and get them back into the system.

Our fundraising for the Hall continues and this month I had the pleasure of taking the Westminster Council Planning Officer and the Design and Conservation Officer around the Hall complex to discuss the Friends' proposals. The architect is sensibly seeking pre-planning application advice which will make the submission much more focused. It was interesting to see the officers' reactions to the space - neither of them had been in the Hall before and they had very interesting things to say about the 'design features'. We tend to overlook these buildings - familiarity can breed contempt - and it is good to see the spaces with new eyes. The Cathedral Hall is unique and will be enhanced by our plans for a new entrance and disabled access. The lavatories and kitchens are in dire need of renewal...

I hope that there is something of interest for you in the forthcoming events. We have struggled with events this year and have streamlined the programme. I trust that less is more. Our focus between now and Christmas is very much the Big Give and, of course, the Christmas Fair. Please do support the work of the Friends. The Cathedral needs us.



*St Joseph's Mass in Lourdes during the Westminster
Lourdes Pilgrimage*

Support our work which enables people with learning difficulties
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